

For immediate release  
January 21, 2004

**CITIZENS' FORUM TO DISCUSS  
COLORADO RIVER TRIBAL RESTORATION PROJECT,  
CIENEGA DE SANTA CLARA, AND NEW RIVER ENCASEMENT  
PROJECT JANUARY 28 IN CALEXICO**

The Colorado River Citizens' Forum (CRCF) of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, January 28 in Calexico, California. The purpose of the CRCF is to promote the exchange of information between the USIBWC and the community about Commission projects and related issues in the area. The meeting will focus on environmental issues related to the Colorado and New Rivers. The meeting is scheduled for 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. PST at the Calexico City Hall Chamber, 608 Heber Avenue.

Russell Ray, Director of the Environmental Protection Office of the Cocopah Indian Tribe, will give an overview of the Tribal Limitrophe Restoration Project. The Cocopah Tribe has proposed a multi-stage restoration plan consisting of construction of a native plant nursery, delivery of water to sustain the native plants, and establishment of an inventory and database of plants and animals in the limitrophe (international boundary) portion of the river. The Cocopah Tribal Council has issued a resolution indicating its desire to work toward protection of the limitrophe area by designating it an international wildlife refuge.

Additionally, Rudy Maldonado of the Calexico New River Committee will discuss the proposal to encase the New River in Calexico. New River pollution has been a longstanding concern in the community. Project proponents hope that encasing the river will benefit public health and economic development in Calexico.

In another item, Dr. Edward P. Glenn of the Environmental Research Laboratory of the University of Arizona will share his research about the Cienega de Santa Clara, a wetland in the Colorado River delta region of Mexico formed at the discharge point of the Wellton-Mohawk Drain. The wetland is home to important wildlife species. Dr. Glenn will also discuss concerns about the impact of increased salinity from potential operation of the Yuma Desalting Plant. A complete agenda follows.

The Colorado River Citizens' Forum Board is comprised of 12 residents of Yuma County, Arizona and Imperial County, California who represent diverse interests in the region. The board has

two co-chairs, Marie Barrett, New River Wetlands Project Outreach Coordinator, and USIBWC Deputy Commissioner Carlos Marin, who serves as the agency's representative on the board. The board conducts quarterly public meetings in the area to discuss plans and issues related to ongoing and future USIBWC projects and related activities.

Members of the public who would like more information about the meeting can contact the USIBWC's Yuma Projects Office at (928) 782-1598 or Public Affairs Officer Sally Spener at (915) 832-4175 or via e-mail at [sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov](mailto:sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov).

For more information:

Sally Spener  
(915) 832-4175  
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## **COLORADO RIVER CITIZENS' FORUM**

**Wednesday, January 28, 2004**

**4:00 - 6:00 p.m. PST**

Calexico City Hall Chamber

608 Heber Avenue

Calexico, CA 92231

### **Agenda**

- Welcome and Introductions - Carlos Marin, Deputy Commissioner, USIBWC
- Tribal Limitrophe Restoration Project - Russell Ray, Director, Environmental Protection Office, Cocopah Indian Tribe
- Current Status of the Cienega de Santa Clara, a Valuable Wetland in the Colorado River Delta Supported by Wellton-Mohawk Agricultural Drain Water - Dr. Edward P. Glenn, Professor, Environmental Research Laboratory of the University of Arizona
- New River Encasement Project - Rudy Maldonado, Calexico New River Committee
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion/Suggested Future Agenda Items

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time.

For more information, call 928-782-1598 or e-mail [sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov](mailto:sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov).